

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10 and 12-20 are now pending in the application. Claims 1-8, 10 and 12-20 stand rejected. Claims 1, 12 and 19 have been amended. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the application, drawings and claims as originally filed and, as such, no new matter has been presented. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 & § 103

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10, 12-14, 16-18, and 19-20 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Smith et al. (GB Pat. No. 2 332 722). Claims 4 and 15 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Smith et al. in view of Palm (U.S. Pat. No. 5,183,357). In view of the amendments and comments herein, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Examiner's attention is directed to independent Claims 1, 12 and 19 which have been amended to clarify that the shoulder portions define a perpendicular bearing surface. Claims 1, 12 and 19 further contain the limitation that the perpendicular bearing surface is in contact with the opposed end of the elongate tubular body.

Applicant respectfully submits the cited surface of the Smith reference does contact the opposed end of the tubular body. In this regard, Applicant submits it is the curved underhead portion (28) of Smith which contacts the opposed end of the tubular body. Applicant further submits the perpendicular bearing surface of the mandrel head shape changes and improves the plastic deformation of the tubular portion during a rivet set event.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1243.

Respectfully submitted,

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